

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14146

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UR US

SUBJ: SOVIET UNHAPPINESS WITH U.S: SPECIFIC AS WELL AS
GENERAL?

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. USA INSTITUTE SECTION CHIEF TROFIMENKO'S
SEPT 7 REMARKS ON SOVIET APPROACH TO U.S. DURING ELECTION
INCLUDE FIRST HINT WE HAVE HEARD THAT CURRENT SOVIET DISPLEASURE
MAY HAVE SPECIFIC AS WELL AS GENERAL CAUSES. END SUMMARY.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION OF WHY SOVIET MEDIA APPEAR TO BE
TAKING FOREIGN POLICY PLANK IN REPUBLICAN PLATFORM SO SERIOUSLY,
POSED BY ACTING POL COUNSELOR AT LUNCH SEPT 7, USA AND
CANADA INSTITUTE FOREIGN POLICY SECTION CHIEF GENRIKH
TROFIMENKO SAID THE SOVIETS ARE REALISTS, KNOW AN ELECTION IS
GOING ON, AND KNOW WHAT TO THINK OF AMERICAN PLATFORMS. THE
PROBLEM, HE CONTINUED, IS THAT IF A PATTERN OF COMMITMENTS
IS ESTABLISHED, A U.S. ADMINISTRATION CAN END UP AFTER AN
ELECTION WITH ITS HANDS TIED ON KEY ISSUES. (TROFIMENKO NOTED
BY THE WAY THAT HE IS NOW ALMOST ALONE IN THE INSTITUTE IN
BELIEVING PRESENT ADMINISTRATION WILL WIN). THE SOVIETS
ARE NOW CONCERNED THAT SUCH A PATTERN MAY ALREADY HAVE BEEN
ESTABLISHED: THE PLATFORM EPISODE WAS ONLY THE MOST RECENT
AND SERIOUS EXAMPLE.

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3. AND, TROFIMENKO ADDED SOMEWHAT MYSTERIOUSLY, THERE

HAVE ALSO BEEN SPECIFIC ACTIONS TAKEN "AT VARIOUS EMBASSIES ABROAD" WHICH GO IN THE SAME DIRECTION, AND WHICH MUST ALSO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY, WHEN ACTING POL COUNSELOR PROFESSED IGNORANCE, AND ASKED FOR EXAMPLES, TROFIMENKO REPLIED THAT "YOU SHOULD KNOW AS WELL AS I DO", BUT WOULD NOT BE FURTHER DRAWN.

4. COMMENT. WE REPORT THE CONVERSATION FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH. IT IS THE FIRST AND ONLY CONVERSATION WE HAVE HAD SO FAR WHICH EVEN HINTS THAT RECENT CHURLISHNESS OF SOVIET MEDIA TREATMENT OF U.S. IS CAUSED BY WHAT THEY CONSIDER SPECIFIC INSULT AS WELL AS BY GENERAL SENTIMENT OF BEING INJURED PARTY WHICH HAS DEVELOPED OVER COURSE OF PRIMARY CAMPAIGN.
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